

area will honor University of Illinois President Stanley O. Ikenberry. At the conclusion of this academic year, President Ikenberry will be retiring from his post after 16 years of outstanding service to the University of Illinois, the Champaign-Urbana community, the entire State of Illinois and indeed to the country. His daily presence in the president's office will be deeply missed, but his influence will be felt for many years to come.

Among the highlights of President Ikenberry's tenure are the establishment of the University of Illinois at Chicago campus, the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, the President's Award and University Scholars Programs, and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, in addition to construction of a host of new academic buildings and laboratory space. President Ikenberry's leadership and dedication to these and other projects have earned the University of Illinois its continued paramount reputation in the academic and scientific research community not only in Illinois but throughout the country. Indeed, President Ikenberry's visionary and bold leadership over the years has helped to establish the University of Illinois as one of the premier and most highly-respected research institutions throughout the world.

On a personal note, President Ikenberry has been a good friend and someone with whom it has been a fine pleasure to work closely with over many years both as a Member of Congress and during my service in the Illinois General Assembly. I am pleased that Stan and his wife Judith will continue to call Urbana home and I look forward to continuing our friendship in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire Illinois delegation I offer our congratulations to President Ikenberry for his life-long commitment to the highest quality education, the advance-

ment of research, and distinguished service to students at the University of Illinois, as well as all of the people of Illinois and our country. We cannot thank him enough for his contributions toward the betterment of all our lives.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY OF ARCHBISHOP
PATRICK F. FLORES' SERVICE

HON. FRANK TEJEDA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 1995

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Speaker, in the rush of our congressional lives, it is fitting that we take a moment to reflect on the work and accomplishment of the Most Reverend Patrick F. Flores, archbishop of San Antonio. His life represents devotion to community, respect for his fellow man, and tireless work to assist the less fortunate. In just a few weeks, we will gather in San Antonio, within the historic walls of Mission San Jose, to pay a most deserved tribute to Archbishop Flores on the 25th anniversary of his Episcopal ordination. It is my privilege to highlight this special event for my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

I should begin with some of the basics. He was born in Ganado, TX, a small town between Victoria and Houston on what is now Highway 59. He entered the priesthood on May 26, 1956, with his ordination at St. Mary's Cathedral in Houston. On March 18, 1970, Pope VI appointed him to serve as auxiliary to the archbishop in San Antonio. After a brief period as bishop of the diocese of El Paso, TX, Bishop Flores was elevated to archbishop of San Antonio on October 13, 1979. Pope John Paul II, on May 25, 1982, conferred the pallium on Archbishop Flores.

Archbishop Flores, upon his 1970 installation as bishop, was the first Mexican-American elevated to the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in the United States. I cannot emphasize the importance of this accomplishment to the hundreds of thousands of Catholic Americans of Mexican descent. It is fitting that we will mark this special occasion at Mission San Jose, one of the early outposts of Spanish Catholicism in the New World. And now one of the students of those early missionaries celebrates 25 years as a bishop.

But more important than the honor is what Archbishop Flores has accomplished. In the early 1970's, he broke new ground in his efforts to establish the Mexican-American Cultural Center in San Antonio, the National Foundation for Mexican-American Vocations, and the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund. He served as chairman of the Texas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, was recognized by the American Jewish Committee for his humanitarianism, and received the Medal of Freedom in conjunction with the Statue of Liberty's 100th anniversary. To serve his community, he established an annual December telethon to help the needy cope with temporary housing and medical emergencies. In this same vein, he sponsors an annual breakfast for a battered women's shelter, and raises money to fight diabetes and help handicapped children.

His dedication speaks for itself. His commitment to the less fortunate is evident. His work for the community is legion. The benefits of his work extend beyond the immediate recipients—we benefit from the repaired lives in our communities and the example he sets for us and our children. Now it is fitting that we express our gratitude.